



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Tony Evers, Governor | Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

May 11, 2020

Dear Members, Families, and Friends:

I would like to give you a short update on what is happening at Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a part of our lives now for more than two months and we are adapting to a new normal. It is a challenge, but so far, we have been meeting that challenge head on.

First, nothing makes me happier than to report in each of these updates that we continue to have **zero** cases of COVID-19 at our Wisconsin Veterans Homes. I attribute this to the practices we had in place and the protocols we added very early on of which we still adhere to today. Limiting who enters our facilities, temperature screening those who do, and strongly enforcing our infectious disease control procedures are the best tools we have to keeping the virus at bay.

I am so thankful for the staff who help us keep our facilities clean, thereby keeping the risk of infection low at our Homes. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, our cleaning and facilities staff are giving high touch points extra daily attention. All handrails, doorknobs, restrooms, and the main entrance are being cleaned multiple times per day. Standard cleaning practices to reduce cross contamination and eliminate the spread of germs are continuing. We continue to underscore the need for hand washing, as all staff and members are regularly urged (and assisted if needed) to wash their hands frequently.

While we must remain vigilant to keep your loved ones healthy, we understand that you have been separated from them physically for much longer than any of us would like. That said, families and friends may still drop off **mail, cards, treats and clean clothing** to members. You can drop off items at the vestibule of the main marked with your member's name. Once you leave the drop off area, our staff will retrieve those items (social distancing is important) and deliver your package to the member's room. While it is not required, calling ahead to let us know you are coming with a delivery helps us to plan.

Finally, I cannot emphasize enough that we continue to be grateful to everyone who abides by the Safer at Home Order. By following this order, we collectively, are keeping our staff - like those who are here keeping our facility clean - healthy so that they do not bring this terrible virus into our Home.

Please keep the calls, emails and video chats coming; it truly brightens the day of everyone here. And, as always, we look forward to the day when we can see you in person again.

Sincerely,

Diane Lynch
Homes Division Administrator